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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Italy

DATE DISTR.

SUBJECT Factionalism in the High Banks of the
Partito Comunista Italiano (PCI)
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**SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. According to one of the most influential men among the labor organizations within the Confederazione Generale Italiana del Lavoro (CGIL) the followers of Palmiro Togliatti, by next May, will have numerically increased and have complete control of the PCI. However, Togliatti's position is threatened by a group of intellectuals, led by Senator Umberto Terracini, who advocate the return to the fundamental principles and peaceful tactics of Marxism to overthrow the opposition.
2. Terracini's criticism of the PCI representatives within the Italian Parliament is that they are unprepared intellectually and lack personal prestige; that they are simply disciplined executors of orders coming from the higher hierarchies without the capacity or willingness to accept the responsibility of sound criticism or even of discussion on the merits of the orders issued by the PCI hierarchy.
3. Terracini has been gaining followers among the most cultured and self reasoning men of the PCI Central Committee, who, among other things, remember that Terracini has always fought with great courage and unselfishness; that he spent twelve years in jail, in Italy, while Togliatti was living in ease in Russia; and that he had the independence and courage to resign from the PCI in 1939 when the Ribbentrop-Molotov pact permitted Hitler to start the war and to invade Poland.
4. Terracini's sympathizers fully agree with him that the tactics and methods which the Cominform, with an unintelligent indiscrimination, applies to Italy as well as to the Balkan countries, can only bring out mistake after mistake, and provoke an unfavorable reaction within the most highly developed ranks of the working class.
5. During Togliatti's sickness, his lieutenants, Luigi Longo and Pietro Secchia, who were worried by the great authority Terracini was gaining as the leftist leader in the Italian Senate, proposed to undertake strong methods to eject Terracini and his intellectuals from responsible positions within the PCI, but Togliatti preferred to start another kind of tactic, which would reinforce his leadership within the PCI and make him the real "number one chief" of the Italian radical forces.

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6. At the latest, by May 1949, the unity of various Partito Socialista Italiano (PSI) tendencies, outside of the most obstinate fusionists, will materialize, and when this happens, the fusionists will have no other recourse than to join the PCI openly and definitely. Togliatti knows that the demagogues of the PSI will follow him with the utmost faithfulness and discipline, as they want and hope to have his support for their political ambitions (Togliatti has actually served notice on them to leave the PSI and join the PCI). Therefore, at the time of the coming scission with the present PSI, the PCI will gain in strength, after which the straight Cominform line will be rigorously followed. There is a possibility that this gain may be partially offset by the loss of Terracini and his follows, who may leave the PCI to cast their lot with the unified PSI.

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